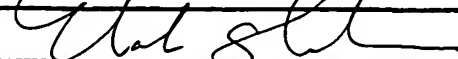


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	
		Filing Date	August 7, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Edward A. Higginbotham
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 2	Attorney Docket Number		

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
UG		US- 6,598,352	7/29/2003	Higginbotham	Col 18, lines 26-67
		US-			Col 19, lines 1-54
UG		US- 6,463,700	10/15/2002	Davis	Col 1, lines 19-35
UG		US- 6,363,662	4/02/2002	Coates	Claims 1 and 4
UG		US- 6,164,020	12/26/2000	Nitch	Abstract
		US-			Col 1, lines 33-35
UG		US- 6,151,837	11/28/2000	Ealer	
		US- 6,134,843	10/24/2000	Tregear	Col 5, lines 16-25
		US- 5,956,904	9/28/1999	Gentry	
		US- 5,842,311	12/30/1998	Morin	
UG		US- 5,755,061	5/26/1998	Chen	Abstract
		US- 5,660,001	8/26/1997	Albracht	
		US- 5,049,826	4/16/1997	Loroney	
UG		US- 5,595,027	1/21/1997	Vail	
		US- 5,555,680	12/22/1994	Sweers	
		US- 5,459,965	10/24/1995	Meckstroth	
		US- 5,495,694	3/5/1996	Kuhns	
UG		US- 5,491,998	2/20/1996	Hansen	
		US- 5,406,754	4/18/1995	Cosby	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		2351757	Jan., 2001	GB		
		1-394254	Dec., 1989	JP		
		11-100953	Apr., 1999	JP		
		2001-349022	Dec., 2001	JP		
		2002-61348	Feb., 2002	JP		
		WO 95/02100	Jan., 1995	WO		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	9/15/04
-----------------------	---	--------------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	August 7, 2003
First Named Inventor	Higginbotham
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

Sheet	2	of	2
-------	---	----	---

[illegible][illegible]

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 509. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

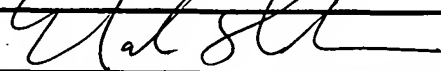
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number		
Filing Date		August 7, 2003
First Named Inventor		Edward A. Higginbotham
Art Unit		
Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of 1
Attorney Docket Number		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Leafilter (Leafilter, RTM) Product Literature/Brochure Currently in use (August 6, 2003) by Leafilter Dealers	
UG		Flow Free. TM web advertisement downloaded Aug. 6, 2003 www.flowfree.com	
↓		Gutter Helmet. RTM web advertisement downloaded Aug. 6, 2003 www.gutterhelmet.com	
↓		LeafGuard. RTM web advertisement downloaded Aug. 6, 2003 www.leafguard.com	
↓		K-Guard. TM web advertisement downloaded Aug. 6, 2003 www.k-guard.com	
UG		SheerFlow. TM web advertisement downloaded Aug. 6, 2003	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	9/15/04
--------------------	---	-----------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.88. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.